

Colm Burke TD
 Fine Gael
 Leinster House
 Kildare Street
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1st February 2023

Re:

PQ63670/22: To ask the Minister for Health the total number of persons undergoing radical radiotherapy treatment who commenced treatment within 15 working days of being deemed ready to treat by the radiation oncologist not including palliative care patients in each of the months from 1 January 2019 to date in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Burke,

The national cancer control programme (NCCP) collect key performance indicators (KPI) that measure time to treatment for radiation oncology as follows:

The proportion of patients completing radical radiation therapy commenced treatment within 15 working days of being deemed ready to treat; target 90%.

Tabulated data for the above KPI is given as follows when summed across all hospitals that submit this treatment KPI to NCCP:

Radiation Oncology	Target	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The number of patients who completed radical treatment for primary cancer</i>														
2019	*	5,869	457	454	458	501	535	465	546	473	505	505	504	466
2020	*	5,607	523	483	523	471	426	432	515	425	444	438	468	459
2021	*	5,516	416	380	402	475	371	495	497	479	505	453	481	562
2022	*	5,947	395	438	485	491	490	539	500	536	526	477	553	517
<i>Timeline from ready to treat to date of first fraction was within 15 working days</i>														
2019	90%	85.3%	87.5%	90.7%	85.2%	85.0%	89.3%	87.1%	83.3%	83.9%	84.6%	84.8%	83.9%	78.8%
2020	90%	83.2%	87.8%	85.3%	87.6%	85.8%	90.4%	92.1%	83.3%	77.6%	75.9%	77.4%	76.3%	77.8%
2021	90%	77.1%	78.8%	80.3%	82.6%	77.9%	77.9%	66.3%	67.0%	79.1%	81.8%	79.0%	76.7%	80.1%
2022	90%	71.4%	77.7%	74.0%	77.1%	74.1%	74.5%	72.7%	74.0%	71.8%	69.8%	71.9%	64.0%	58.2%

Please note:

1. The KPI does not include patients receiving palliative radiation therapy.

2. Activity that was outsourced to private facilities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020/2021 and also activity during and as a result of the cyberattack in May/June 2021 may not be included in these figures.
3. Data for 2022 may not be complete for all submitting hospitals and is subject to change.

Yours sincerely



Patrick Cafferty
Assistant National Director
National Cancer Control Programme

